

We claim:

1. A stand-off system for providing fixed, vertical orientation of artwork or other objects parallel to a vertical surface, the system comprising:

a bracket having a portion for coupling the bracket to the vertical surface and a vertical mounting plate portion, the mounting plate having a shaped opening positioned along an upper edge surface of the mounting plate portion; and

a stem portion having a mounting surface for rigidly mounting the stem portion onto the artwork, the stem portion further comprising a body portion and flat head portion separated by a shaped neck portion, the head and neck portions defining a flange shaped to precisely register with the shaped opening and thereby maintain a predetermined orientation of the artwork or other objects.

2. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the opening along the upper edge surface of the mounting plate portion of the bracket is round and the shaped neck portion has a corresponding round shape.

3. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the opening along the upper edge surface of the mounting plate portion of the bracket is rectangular and the shaped neck portion has a corresponding rectangular shape.

4. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the opening along the upper edge surface of the mounting plate portion of the bracket is square and the shaped neck portion has a corresponding square shape.

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5. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the opening along the upper edge surface of the mounting plate portion of the bracket is V-shaped and the shaped neck portion has a corresponding V shape.

6. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the bracket is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of sheet metal, plastic, wood, resin and other natural and synthetic materials.

7. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the stem portion is machined from a single piece of material.

8. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the stem portion is formed by injection molding.

9. The stand-off system of Claim 1, in which the portion for coupling the bracket to the vertical surface and the vertical mounting plate portion are connected by side plate portions.

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10. A method for providing fixed, vertical orientation of artwork parallel to a vertical surface, the method comprising the following steps:

obtaining a bracket having a portion for coupling the bracket to the vertical surface and a vertical mounting plate portion, the mounting plate having a shaped opening positioned along an upper edge surface of the mounting plate portion; and

obtaining a stem portion having a mounting surface for rigidly mounting the stem portion onto the artwork, the stem portion further comprising a body portion and flat head portion separated by a shaped neck portion, the head and neck portions defining a flange shaped to precisely register with the shaped opening and thereby maintain a predetermined orientation of the piece of artwork;

coupling the bracket to the vertical surface;

mounting the stem portion onto the artwork; and

interconnecting the stem portion and the bracket by registering the flange with the shaped opening.

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